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Calendula Soothes and Fights Minor Infections

*But calendula's expensive.
 For minor, non-irritating scrapes, Corona may do the trick.*



Wound creams come in all sizes, shapes and prices. For minor scrapes, you want a product that keeps the skin soft while it heals. For more than hair loss, you want a product that does more.

ELEANOR KELLON, VMD

When your horse has a long or deep wound, especially if it's gaping open or bleeding heavily, you need your veterinarian. However, wounds like these aren't common. Instead, horses, like small children, tend to be prone to an assortment of minor problems, such as minor skin irritations from equipment, simple abrasions or raw areas from itching/rubbing.

We wanted to find a product you keep as a basic barn staple that

would be suitable to use on a variety of problems. Our ideal product had to provide protecting/moisturizing benefits for rubs, burns, superficial scrapes and the most commonly encountered minor skin injuries. However, we didn't want it to be excessively oily.

A wound product should be free of any potentially irritating ingredients, so that it could be used safely on any part of the body, including the coronary band, and on sensitive-skinned horses. We also wanted a product that would be safe and effective to use on minor injuries that actually broke the

skin. Antimicrobial activity of the ingredients would be a plus, but we didn't want any ingredients that would be drying, irritating or could induce reactions in sensitive-skinned/allergic horses.

Simple, nongreasy emollients like petroleum jelly and Corona Antiseptic Ointment are excellent multipurpose products that are appropriate for minor skin injuries. Both are at good prices and have bases that soften and moisturize well without being heavy or greasy. Corona has a mild antimicrobial effect, while Aloe Advantage goes one step beyond

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WOUND CARE

- Call your vet for large, heavily bleeding cuts.
- Cleanse wounds gently with pHisoDerm wash.
- Use your fingertips, and cleanse your hands or wear gloves.
- Keep wounds moist with a good emollient, as moisture promotes healing.
- Inspect wounds daily for signs of infection.



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LYONS ON: STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

A reasonable shelf life for skin-care products is about two years. Since you will only have reason to use them sporadically — we hope! — you'll want to keep on hand a product that can be used for a variety of different problems and in an amount that will guarantee you have enough to treat a problem for about a week. However, you don't want tons of it sitting around the barn waiting to expire. An 8 to 16 oz. container is a reasonable choice. It's a good idea to write the date of purchase on the container with indelible ink and cover that with a piece of clear tape to prevent it being rubbed or obscured, especially if the product doesn't have an expiration date.



It's wise to store this, and all your other first-aid supplies, in a single location like a tackle box or adapted toolbox. Pick a storage spot that is not going to have extremes of temperature, and certainly avoid direct exposure to sun or placement on top of refrigerators, which become warm from the heat from the motor, close to heating units or anywhere they may freeze.

When using containers without dispensers where you will have to repeatedly go in and out of them, a little extra care can avoid contaminating the contents with bacteria, dirt and hair. Keep a supply of plastic spoons or knives, or wooden tongue depressors, to use when taking medication out of the jar. Transfer the medication to a piece of cardboard, heavy paper or a gauze sponge. Immediately wipe off any excess that may have spilled on the jar or the lid, and replace the lid snugly.

Corona's excellent emollient effects with the anti-inflammatory and healing benefits of aloe. Ingredients that will at least help keep organisms at bay if the skin barrier is broken, without sacrificing the softening and moisturizing effects so important to all minor irritations, are ideal.

ROUTINE CARE OF MINOR WOUNDS

Before and between applications of your wound product, skin breaks and irritations need gentle cleansing. Soap is highly antibacterial,

but it often contains a variety of fragrances and other additives that can irritate the tissues and isn't always the best choice. Iodine-based scrubs, like Betadine scrub, are also good for controlling organisms but can be irritating. We prefer to keep a small bottle of the human product pHisoDerm skin wash around for these problems. It gently cleanses without causing any irritation to the most sensitive skins and washes off easily.

When cleaning these areas, your best "tool" is your fingertips.

Sponges usually harbor a huge number of bacteria in all those nooks and crannies. Loose cotton can leave filaments in the wound that become irritating. Gauze can be too rough on tender skin.

Wash your hands thoroughly first or use clean gloves, gently hose the area for a few minutes to loosen any surface dirt, then gently scrub a small amount of the soap into the area for a few minutes and rinse clean. You must rinse thoroughly with a gentle stream of water to remove all soap residue. When dry, it's ready for your ointment or cream.

Repeat application daily, according to manufacturer instructions. Keep the wound area as clean as possible, and watch it for signs of swelling, redness or other irritation that might indicate an infection setting in. If you suspect it's becoming infected, contact your veterinarian.

BEST CHOICES

Corona Antiseptic Ointment and Aloe Advantage are excellent basic wound-care products to have on hand for minor nicks and scrapes. They're also reasonably priced, with Corona earning our Best Buy for superficial skin scrapes.

Aloe Wound Salve is our overall winner, as it has the lowest potential for irritation and it goes a step beyond emollient effects with the anti-inflammatory and healing benefits of Aloe juice in a base that softens and moisturizes well without being heavy or greasy.

However, we were especially impressed with two products that have the advantage of calendula's soothing and antimicrobial effects: Marigold Healer and First Aid in a Jar. Calendula is moderately effective against any organisms that might try to invade a wound, but has low potential for any irritation and, in fact, has some obvious pain-relieving benefits. The Marigold Pocket Healer is a bit pricey, but it's perfect to put in your trail first-aid kit. **PH**

WOUND CREAM REVIEW

Product/ Contact	Size/ Price	Ingredients	Potential for Irritation/drying	Comments
Aloe Wound Salve Aloe Advantage 877-624-9693 www.aloeadvantage.com	8 oz. \$8.79 16 oz. \$11.79	Aloe barbadensis juice, vitamins A, D, E and B6 in a de-ionized water base	None	Very softening/moisturizing with an anti-inflammatory effect from the aloe, which will also encourage healing. Aloe fans who find that their aloe-treated wounds may be showing some infection might want to try the aloe-based Phenol Wound Treatment gel (16 oz. \$12.79).
Antimicrobial Wound Relief Equine Elite 877-738-2873 www.equineelite.com	8 oz. \$8.95	Benzalkonium chloride in a base of de-ionized water, wax, parabens, propylene glycol	Low (benzalkonium chloride)	Ointment has a light, creamy texture. Non-greasy and sinks in rapidly. Would need to repeat frequently for dry scrapes, rubs or equipment burns. No direct softening or moisturizing, but is pH-balanced. Spray has no moisturizing effects, antibacterial only.
C4G Ointment Uckele Health and Nutrition 800-248-0330 www.uckele.com	5.5 oz. \$8.50	Calendula, chamomile, arnica, spirit of camphor, clove oil, witch hazel, sodium copper chlorophyllin, gentian extract in a petrolatum and beeswax base	Low to moderate (camphor, clove oil)	Light green ointment with a pleasant fragrance and excellent pain-relieving qualities. Best for scrapes and rubs that have broken the skin and are tender.
Corona Antiseptic Ointment Summit Industries www.coronaproducts.com 800-241-6996	14 oz. \$7 36 oz. \$17	Lanolin 50%, oxyquinolone 0.11%, beeswax and petrolatum base	None for drying; low for irritation (individual lanolin sensitivities)	Highly moisturizing/softening and protective dressing for all sorts of minor injuries, rope burns, rubs, irritations. Mild antimicrobial action.
Corona Hoof Dressing Summit Industries www.coronaproducts.com 800-241-6996	32 oz. \$15.95	Oxyquinolone 0.22%, in base of lanolin, beeswax and petrolatum.	Low (lanolin)	We prefer the consistency of the Corona Antiseptic Ointment for easy use on wounds but wouldn't hesitate to use this in a pinch.
Cut Heal Multi+care Cut Heal Animal Care Products Inc 800-CUT-HEAL www.cut-heal.com	4 oz. \$9.50 8 oz. \$11.15	Crude fish oil, raw linseed oil, spirits of turpentine, balsam of fir and sulfuric acid; ointment in a base of silica and propylene glycol	Moderate (turpentine, balsam of fir and sulfuric acid)	Strong odor and oily, but this established formula has a lot of staunch supporters. It can be a good choice when the skin is broken and the wound is likely to be contaminated often and you can't treat it more than once a day. Otherwise, for the everyday superficial wound, we prefer a gentler choice.
Dy's Liquid Bandage Advanced Biological Concepts 800-373-5971 www.a-b-c-plus.com	8 oz. \$24.00 16 oz. \$37.50	Goldenseal, bee pollen and propolis, honey, other herbs including Oregon grape and aloe, tea tree oil and colloidal silver in an olive oil and beeswax, clay base.	Low (tea tree oil, goldenseal)	Rich, oily base that tends to separate in hot weather, requiring mixing. Becomes hard in cold weather. Otherwise, a nice choice of ingredients, and when it has expired it makes a good hoof dressing.
First Aid In A Jar Moonshine Naturals 541-271-1155 www.moonshinenaturals.com	2 oz. \$17.50	A certified organic product with calendula and essential oils of several other herbs, vitamin E, in a light base of natural beeswax, cocoa and shea butters.	Minimal to none	Excellent softening/moisturizing of irritated and dried skin with a pain-relieving effect from the calendula, which is also antibacterial. Good consistency and is absorbed well without a greasy feel.



WOUND CREAM REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Product/ Contact	Size/ Price	Ingredients	Potential for Irritation/drying	Comments
Fura-Zone Squire Lab./Neogen www.neogen.com 800-525-2022	16 oz. \$6.95	0.2% nitrofurazone in water soluble, propylene glycol base, light, yellow cream	Individual sensitivities	Thick, nongreasy ointment. Longtime favorite for control of bacteria. The active ingredient may be a carcinogen in people and animals. Must wear gloves or wash hands immediately after use.
Gall Salve Bickmore www.bickmore.com 800-356-8804	5 oz. \$8.95 14 oz. \$14.56	Alum, borax, oxyquinolin sulfate, sulfur in a waxy base	Moderate	The waxy base prevents evaporation of fluids from wound, but several of the ingredients are caustic. Excellent for open wounds that tend to granulate and for irritated rubs slow to heal. We suggest something more gentle for most wounds.
Grape Balm The Natural Horse Vet www.thenaturalhorsevet.net 877-873-8838	12 gram tube \$6.99 8 oz. \$12.99	Grape seed extract, clove oil, walnut hulls, Pau D'arco, psyllium, garlic, glycerin, artemisia	Minimal to none	A great smelling, gentle, black ointment with excellent anti-inflammatory effects. Terrific for rubbed, raw bare spots on tails and to hide cuts/scar on black legs while you treat them. Sticky. Attracts debris.
Marigold Healer The Natural Horse Vet www.thenaturalhorsevet.net 877-873-8838	12 gram tube \$6.99 4 oz. \$12.99	Calendula (marigold) in a beeswax base	Minimal to none	Easy to work with, light ointment with excellent anti-inflammatory, analgesic and healing properties. Good results even on tough problems, like heel scratches.
Natural Wound Dressing Cream Horses Prefer/Vets Plus Inc www.horsesprefer.com 800-468-3877	8 oz \$10.20	Aloe vera, tea tree oil, clove oil, eucalyptus, neem extract, sandalwood, tulsi in a base of deionized water, mineral oil, glycerin, parabens, propylene glycol	Drying and emollient effects seem to cancel each other out.	Highly fragrant cream that thins to a gel-like consistency in hot weather. Absorbed well, nongreasy. We like the neem and aloe, but these gentle healers may be overpowered a bit by the other ingredients. Does have softening effect. Works especially well on dry/irritated/cracked heels. May get individual sensitivity reactions to the harsher ingredients.
Pro-Tect Wound Cream Straight Arrow 800-827-9815 www.manentail.com	8 oz. \$8.99- \$9.99	Benzalkonium chloride in a emollient, creamy ointment base	Low	Good for minor irritations and itchy areas, e.g. in tails. Some softening effects.
Super-H Antiseptic Powder Bickmore www.bickmore.com 800-356-8804	4 oz. \$5.50 3.5 lb. \$24	Aluminum silicate base with boric acid, menthol and essential oils. Use dry or as a poultice.	Moderate to high	Although usually used as a poultice for legs, it can be mixed with water to a paste consistency. Most appropriate for wounds with a large amount of drainage. Soothing but antiseptic and drying. Do not allow to remain on the wound after it dries out.
Tea Tree – ADE Animal Legends 800-399-7387 www.animallegends.com	8 oz. \$12.95	Tea tree oil, vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E, lanolin, collagen in a paraben (waxy) base	Moderate (tea tree oil)	Waxy ointment that protects well against drying, softens without greasiness. Especially good for minor cuts and irritations/bare areas where fungus is suspected.
Udder Butter Summit Industries Inc 800-241-6996 www.coronaproducts.com	7 oz. \$4.50 33 oz. \$12	Oxyquinoline 0.22%, base of petrolatum, animal oil, lanolin, castor oil and fragrance	Low (lanolin)	Heavy ointment. Creates an excellent barrier against irritation and drying, softens well. Some antimicrobial activity. Can double as hoof dressing.
Wound Salve Frog Works 303-973-0109 www.ffrogworks.com	2 oz. \$19.95	Lavender, helichrysum & german chamomile	Low	Mildly aromatic, gentle and soothing salve but too thin to adhere well. Minimal protectant or moisturizing effects. Does soften somewhat.

